

Serial No. 10/772,524
60,130-2011/04MRA0100

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An air spring assembly comprising:
a piston;
a piston airbag ~~formed of a flexible material and~~ mounted to said piston; and
a primary airbag mounted adjacent said piston air bag such that at least a portion of said primary airbag contacts an outer surface of said piston airbag
2. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said piston airbag defines a first volume and said primary airbag defines a second volume, a change in pressure within said piston airbag changes a diameter of said piston airbag.
3. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein a change in diameter of said piston airbag changes a spring rate of said primary airbag.
4. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein an increase in pressure within said first volume increases a spring rate of said primary airbag.
5. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein a decrease in pressure within said first volume decreases a spring rate of said primary airbag.
6. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a first band and a second band which retains said piston airbag to said piston.
7. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 6, further comprising a third band which retains said primary airbag to said piston airbag.
8. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein said third band retains said primary airbag to said second band.

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9. (ORIGINAL) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said piston comprises a mount and an outer piston, said piston airbag mounted to said outer piston.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An air suspension system for a vehicle having a frame member, the air suspension system comprising:

a longitudinal member extending generally lengthways of the vehicle frame member and mountable to the vehicle for pivotal movement about an axis generally transverse of the vehicle frame member;

a primary airbag disposed between said longitudinal member and said vehicle frame member; and

a piston airbag ~~formed of a flexible material and~~ mounted at least partially within said primary airbag such that a portion of said primary airbag contacts an outer surface of said piston airbag, a change in pressure within said piston airbag operates to change a spring rate defined by said primary airbag.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The suspension system as recited in claim 10, further comprising an air supply which independently communicates air to said primary airbag and said piston airbag ~~through a respective port in an upper mount which mounts said primary airbag and a port in a lower mount, said lower mount mounted to a piston support which supports said piston airbag.~~

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12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of changing a spring rate of an air spring assembly comprising the steps of:

(1) mounting a primary airbag adjacent a piston airbag such that the piston airbag is located as a rolling surface for the primary airbag, the piston airbag defines a selectively changeable first volume and the primary airbag defines a selectively changeable second volume; and

(2) changing a pressure within the first volume such that a spring rate of the primary airbag changes.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of: changing a volume within the primary airbag changes the spring rate of the primary airbag.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An air spring assembly comprising:
a piston;
a piston airbag mounted to said piston; [[a]]
a primary airbag mounted adjacent said piston air bag such that at least a portion of said primary airbag contacts said piston airbag;
a first band and a second band which retains said piston airbag to said piston;
a third band which retains said primary airbag to said piston airbag, said third band retains said primary airbag to said second band.

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16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An air suspension system for a vehicle having a frame member, the air suspension system comprising:

a longitudinal member extending generally lengthways of the vehicle frame member and mountable to the vehicle for pivotal movement about an axis generally transverse of the vehicle frame member;

a primary airbag disposed between said longitudinal member and said vehicle frame member;

a piston airbag mounted at least partially within said primary airbag such that a change in pressure within said piston airbag operates to change a spring rate defined by said primary airbag; and

an air supply which independently communicates air to said primary airbag and said piston airbag.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said primary airbag is located to roll along said outer surface of said piston airbag.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said piston airbag and said primary airbag are variable volume chambers.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The suspension system as recited in claim 10, wherein said primary airbag is located to roll along said outer surface of said piston airbag.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The suspension system as recited in claim 10, wherein said piston airbag and said primary airbag are variable volume chambers.

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21. (NEW) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a piston support, said piston airbag mounted to said piston support, said piston support having ports located through a radial surface defined about a longitudinal axis of said piston support to communicate an airflow into said piston airbag to change a pressure within said piston airbag.

22. (NEW) The air spring assembly as recited in claim 21, further comprising an air supply which independently communicates air to said primary airbag and said piston airbag through a respective port in an upper mount which mounts said primary airbag and a port in a lower mount, said lower mount mounted to a piston support which supports said piston airbag.

23. (NEW) The suspension system as recited in claim 10, further comprising a piston support, said piston airbag mounted to said piston support, said piston support having ports located through a radial surface defined about a longitudinal axis of said piston support to communicate an airflow into said piston airbag to change a pressure within said piston airbag.

24. (NEW) The suspension system as recited in claim 23, further comprising a lower mount attached to said piston support, said lower mount attached to said longitudinal member.